(b) Does not arise.

Scheme for Vocational Education Programme

[*English*]

743. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the concrete action proposed to implement the Vocational Education Programme Enunciated in National Education Programme 1986 to wipe out illeteracy?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): The objective of Vocationalisation of Education, as stated in the National Policy on Education, 1986, is to enhance individual employability, reduce the mismatch between demand and supply of skilled manpower and to provide an alternative for those pursuing higher education without particular interest or purpose.

Keeping in view these objectives a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education was started w.e.f. February 1988. Substantial financial assistance is provided to the State/UTs for running Vocational courses at +2 level as also for the required technical resource support and management structure. Financial assistance amounting to more than Rs. 200 crores has been given so far to 27 States/UTs for implementation of the programme.

The National Literacy Mission, as part of functional literacy, also imparts skills to adult illiterates to improve their economic status and general wellbeing.

Cold Storage Coaches for Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam

744. M.V.V.S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cold storage coaches in the Railways to transport perishable items;

(b) the number of coaches allotted to South Central and South Eastern Railways;

(c) whether any representation has been received from Marine Business people of Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam regarding shortage of such coaches; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) One, Sir.

(b) Nil.

(c) Yes, Sir. There was a representation from Vijayawada for supply of Refrigerated Van for transportation of fish traffic to Howrah.

(d) A few refrigerated parcel vans were provided by the Railways in the past for transportation of perishable parcels, but the same were discontinued for want of adequate patronage, higher cost of maintenance and lack of refrigerated facilities at the terminals.

Contraction of AIds by Girl

745. SHRI RABI RAY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Girl gets AIDS due to sheer negligence" appearing in the Statesman dated November 9, 1991; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the action proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) Yes.

(b) 100 cc, fresh blood from the mother was given to a critically ill child to save her life in Swami Dayanand Hospital, Shahdara. The Hospital authorities sent the blood of the mother for confirmatory H.I.V. testing at N.I.C.D., Delhi which is a reference laboratory. The blood was found negative for H.I.V., infection.

Tour Package by ITDC in Madhya Pradesh

[*Translation*]

746. SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any tour package is being introduced for tourists visiting Madhya Pradesh by the India Tourism Development Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Details are as under: